

Bowl Parade, 2nd Place, Tampa, Florida '03; Walt Disney World's Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Parade '03; Indianapolis 500 Opening Ceremonies Spectacle of Bands '03; Chicago's Target Thanksgiving Day Parade '02; Indianapolis 500 Opening Ceremonies Spectacle of Bands '02; Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade '02.

The Red Regiment continues to achieve the very highest awards everywhere they perform and have been an ISSMA State Finalist in 1991, 1998, 1999, and 2003. In addition, the bands have earned consistent gold ratings in all marching, concert, and jazz ISSMA contests.

The NorthWood Bands have had the opportunity to perform with the internationally famous Dallas Brass, open for Maynard Ferguson and His Big Bop Nouveau Band, and also appear on the front cover of the JW Pepper's Sheet Music Magazine, which was distributed nationwide.

I congratulate the following staff and members of the NorthWood High School Red Regiment on all of their achievements and am proud to have them representing Indiana in the Washington, D.C. Memorial Day parade:

Barry L. Houser, Director of Bands; Jeanne Focht, Performing Arts Secretary; Tom Schiefer, Staff; Cristal Osbourn, Guard Director.

Abel, Stephen; Ammerman, Carter; Beachy, Stasia; Bechtold, Amanda; Brovont, Natasha; Campbell, Tyler; Capre, Laure; Carney, Samantha; Christianson, Taylor; Clark, Felisha; Clark, Rebecca; Dougherty, Sarah; Douwsma, Seth; Eagan, Harlan; Figueroa, Lisette.

Ford, Alicia; Ghigliotto, Bianca; Ghigliotto, Brenna; Grabill, Jacob; Hall, Samantha; Hapner, Edith; Henke, Corrie; Hochstetter, Chandra; Huber, Danielle; Hurst, Colton; Hurst, Trenna; Johnson, Brett; Johnson, Taryn; Kaufman, Michael; Koch, Stacie.

Korsmo, Amanda; Korsmo, Ashley; Kronk, Shawn; Kurtz, Hannah; Leavitt, Benjamin; Lengacher, Katelyn; Lentz, Kendra; Loutzenhiser, Samantha; Lucas, Ann; Malto, Marisella; Marsh, Andrew; Martin, Andrea; McDonald, Jennifer; McFerren, Amanda; McFerren, Molly.

McWilliams, Hannah; Messick, Patrick; Metzler, Alisha; Miller, Drew; Minnich, Kimberly; Minnich, Kristen; Moorhead, Ian; Nelson, Stephanie; Nisley, Garret; Nissley, Bradlynn; Palmer, Tiffany; Peterson, Ben; Phillips, Tyler; Reed, Adam.

Reid, Tabitha; Reid, Thomas; Rensberger, Heather; Reynolds, Britney; Riege, Kyle; Riege, Matthew; Schaffer, Lucas; Schieber, Brett; Schloke, Kirsten; Schmitt, Ashley; Schmitt, Christina; Schmitt, Katelyn; Schmitt, Michael; Schmitt, Rochelle; Smith, Kayla.

Smith, Kyle; Smith, Lindsay; Sonner, Jaclyn; Stahl, Amanda; Stahl, Jeremy; Stephens, Stewart; Stevens, Derrick; Stutzman, Shelby; Stutzman, Trenton; Taylor, Qwatecia; Teske, Bradley.

Truex, Corey; Wakefield, Karen; Wegmiller, Jillian; Weldy, Kory; Wenger, Rachel; Wilson, Breanna; Yoder, Andrew; Yoder, Emily; Yoder, Sarah; Zimmerman, Krystal.

RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1401) to improve the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses in the United States, and for other purposes:

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong opposition to section three of amendment No. 18 offered to H.R. 1401, the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2007, which would undermine a long standing principle of Federal uniformity in the area of railroad safety law. The railroads have long had Federal preemption from a variety of State-level laws because railroads, as a national system, could not function effectively under a patchwork of laws from 50 different States.

Regulation of rail safety must be uniform nationwide. The Federal Rail Safety Act was not intended to create minimum standards for rail safety; it was intended to create uniform standards governing railroad safety because Congress recognized that given the interstate and interdependent nature of the industry, uniformity was essential to effective safety regulation.

It would be counterproductive for States and localities to impose widely disparate safety requirements that could hinder a railroad's ability to operate efficiently across State and local boundaries. In 1970, Congress found that the railroad industry: "... has a truly interstate character calling for a uniform body of regulation and enforcement. . . . The integral operating parts of these companies cross many State lines. In addition to the obvious areas of rolling stock and employees, such elements as operating rules, signal systems, power supply systems, and communication systems of a single company normally cross numerous State lines. To subject a carrier to enforcement before a number of different State administrative and judicial systems in several areas of operation could well result in an undue burden on interstate commerce." (H.R. Report No. 91-1194 (1970))

Congress' reasoning was sound then, and that reasoning remains sound today.

In conclusion, I am concerned by the fact that this sweeping provision was labeled "technical" in nature. In addition, there have been no hearings on this topic and no analysis of its effects on the railroad industry and interstate commerce. Federal preemption is vital to fluid daily operations of the railroads which we all rely on to move goods efficiently across the country. In fact, we should not forget that, this is precisely why the founding fathers included important interstate commerce protections in the Constitution.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Women's History Month. Though we have designated March as the particular month for this celebration, we must pause everyday to salute the spirit, courage, and contributions of women in our own country and around the world.

With the election of the new Speaker of the House, our own Baltimore native Nancy Pelosi, we brought down another barrier and took another step towards equal and enfranchised participation of women in government. On her swearing-in day, Speaker Pelosi said "It says to women everywhere that not only a glass ceiling but a marble ceiling can be broken and that anything is possible." Out of the 180 countries that directly elect representatives to national legislatures, the United States ranks 60th in terms of female representation. Of the nearly 600 persons who have served in a President's Cabinet since George Washington's presidency, only 29 have been women. We have come a long way in giving a voice to the many disenfranchised and under-represented communities in our nation but the fight for social advancement is not over.

Maryland has been called home by many of America's trailblazing women. This month, Rachel Carson, who spent many years in Maryland and later died in Silver Spring, would have celebrated her 100th birthday. Ms. Carson received her masters degree in Zoology from John's Hopkins University and penned many feature articles on Natural History for the Baltimore Sun. But she was best known as the author of Silent Spring—the book that pulled back the curtain on the human and environmental impacts of chemical pesticides such as DDT. Facing a rash of criticism and in some cases harassment, Ms. Carson persevered and became known as the mother of the environmental movement. In 1964, her life was cut short by a disease that today has a grip on far too many lives, breast cancer.

Madam Speaker, the first female President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, Mary Robinson, once said, "In a society where the rights and potential of women are constrained, no man can be truly free. He may have power, but he will not have freedom." Celebrating women's history gives girls and women the courage to dream bigger and gives us all the opportunity to redouble our efforts in helping them realize these dreams. I salute the great women of our nation and encourage the next generation to further the cause of equality and freedom.

5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE AFGHANISTAN

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, January 30, 2007, marked the 5-year anniversary of Radio

Free Afghanistan's first broadcast. Five years ago, this service of Radio Free Europe began broadcasting 12 hours a day in Dari and Pashto, to millions of Afghans who had been thirsting for legitimate news and information.

Radio Free Afghanistan had operated during the Soviet invasion, but was then unwisely stopped. The Taliban's Radio Shariat filled the vacuum—broadcasting a steady stream of hate. After the Taliban's fall, Radio Free Afghanistan was restarted and has established itself as the leading broadcaster, with nearly 60 percent of Afghan adults listening.

Madam Speaker, it was Congress who took the lead in creating this essential service. A bipartisan group of Members passed my Radio Free Afghanistan Act of 2001 quickly after September 11th.

As Afghans have confronted many challenges over the past 5 years, Radio Free Afghanistan has been there—and will continue to be in the years to come, offering a voice of freedom and moderation.

TRIBUTE TO BOB BECKWITH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Beckwith on the upcoming celebration of his 75th Birthday on April 16th. Bob personifies the very best of the FDNY and has been a source of strength for so many grieving Americans, whether he was standing with President Bush at Ground Zero just days after September 11th or traveling across the country to raise funds for the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. I wish him all the best and I am proud to call him my friend!

CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN CLINE FOR EARNING HIS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Cline for recently earning his Eagle Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting. His keen interest, work ethic and drive in the pursuit of excellence have led Ben to complete all the ranks along the trail to Eagle, including 29 merit badges. Benjamin's Eagle Scout Service Project was completed by installing two flag poles at Belen's Alexander Airport. He has enjoyed Boy Scouts through many camping trips, building his own raft and river rafting, canoeing 50 miles down the Rio Grande and bicycling over 100 miles.

Ben is the son of Doug and Ann Marie Cline of Los Lunas and a junior at Belen High School. At BHS he holds the rank of Lt. JG in Naval ROTC and is the Color Guard commander. He is involved in the new Sea Scouts Ship recently formed at Belen High School as well as with MESA. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir. Ben also holds a second degree Black Belt at

Belen Goju Ryu Karate School. He attended Dennis Chavez Elementary then was home-schooled for several years before entering Belen High School. He has two sisters who are currently attending UNM in Albuquerque. After graduation in 2008, Ben plans to attend San Juan Community College and earn two associate degrees—Aviation and Law Enforcement. He then plans to attend the University of Minnesota to complete a BS degree in Aviation Law Enforcement and begin a related career.

Ben encourages all young men to explore the Scouting experience—"It has helped me grow in outdoor and leadership skills and helped to mold my character and make me a better person. The Scouting program teaches valuable life skills."

I am proud to recognize Benjamin Cline for his accomplishments. It is my honor as a Member of Congress to have the chance to congratulate this outstanding young man on an achievement he will celebrate the rest of his life. Congratulations Ben Cline, your family, your congressman, and your country are all proud of your achievement.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE DAVID

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. George David, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United Technologies Corporation, who received the Leadership in Human Capital Practices award at the Third Annual CNBC Executive Leadership Award ceremony on January 31, 2007. While this prestigious award seeks to honor executives "who best exemplify leadership in human capital practices within their organization by cultivating highly productive and satisfied workforces," no award can fully appreciate the impact that his leadership has had on the lives of thousands of American citizens across the country.

The Employee Scholar Program he created has allowed UTC employees to obtain more than 20,000 academic degrees free of charge. Since 1996, Mr. David's advocacy of the \$600,000,000 investment by United Technologies Corporation in this program has not only enriched the lives of his fellow employees, but has benefited every corner of our great country. The United States of America is more vibrant, dynamic, and competitive because of the Employee Scholar Program he created more than 10 years ago. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating George David for receiving this prestigious award.

RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the

state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1401) to improve the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1401, the "Rail and Public Transportation Security Act."

Since the attacks on 9/11, we have seen the tragic consequences when the vulnerabilities of rail and public transportation systems are exploited, including in London and Madrid. We cannot afford to wait for an attack here in America before we make rail and transit security the priority it needs to be.

Tens of billions of dollars have been spent on aviation security since 9/11, yet only \$660 million has been devoted to mass transit security. While we all agree that air travel needs to be as safe as possible, we cannot forget about the security of the millions of people who are riding subways, trains, and busses everyday.

This bipartisan legislation will help to make our Nation's railways and public transportation systems safer by requiring the Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation to develop a national strategy for the security of these systems after assessing the significant risks associated with them. The bill would authorize \$6 billion over the next four years for grant programs and it would require training for rail, transit, and bus employees about prevention, preparation, and response to a terrorist attack. H.R. 1401 increases the number of full-time surface transportation inspectors and it requires the development of regulations for the transportation of sensitive materials including the possibilities of alternative routes.

I am especially pleased to note that this bill provides critical whistleblower protections for DHS, DoT, and rail and public transportation employees who report security risks or violations. Just this month the House passed legislation that, among other provisions, extended important whistleblower protections to employees of intelligence agencies and to federal contractors. It is important that we protect those who by blowing the whistle on misconduct or wrongdoing help keep this country safe.

Our constituents should feel as safe as possible whether they commute daily on a train or bus or whether they are occasional travelers on public transportation systems. Passage of the bill before us today is an important step in enhancing the security of the Nation's mass transit systems.

I urge my colleagues to vote aye.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID MABIE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Mabie on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Mabie began his career at the Waynesboro Police Department, as one of the original officers of the newly formed Prince William